

Ephraim H. Foster
September 17, 1794 – September 6, 1854

Section 29.2 ID # 290006

Ephraim Hubbard Foster was born in Nelson County, Kentucky, on September 17, 1794, to Robert C. and Ann Hubbard Foster. Two years later the family moved to Nashville. He joined a company of Rifles to accompany Andrew Jackson during the Creek War. “The sprightly qualities and ready zeal of the youthful soldier did not escape the penetrating eye of the General who immediately took him from the ranks and placed him on his staff as his private Secretary.” After returning home from the war, he studied law under John Dickinson and qualified, in 1816, as a practicing lawyer in Nashville. On June 24, 1817, the Rev. William Hume married Ephraim H. Foster and Jane Dickinson who was a widow. They were blessed with many children. Jane was well known for her garden at their home “Mansfield.” Her obituary noted “her exquisite taste in ornamenting the grounds of her residence with a choice and beautiful collection of plants and flowers.”

Ephraim H. Foster was a prominent Nashville attorney. He was elected three times to the General Assembly where twice he was chosen Speaker of the House. The political friendship of Jackson and Foster ended when Foster supported Hugh Lawson White over Jackson’s choice of Martin Van Buren for president in 1836.

Robert C. Foster, Ephraim’s father, died in 1844, followed by his wife Jane in 1847, and his mother in 1850. The Fosters’ handsome monuments grace the family lot at City Cemetery.

Ephraim died on September 6, 1854. In the long obituary for Ephraim H. Foster, it was noted that that his friends would remember “his prominent position in his profession, his unbounded hospitality, the kindly aid which he always extended, more especially to the young.” Yet the writer also commented “no man ever doubted which side of a question Col. Foster stood; ever open, bold, clear and decided, he cleft his way through the waters regardless of the waves that rolled tumultuously around him.”

Sources

Tennessee Encyclopedia On-line

Davidson Co. Marriage June 24, 1817 Ephraim Foster & Jane Dickinson On-line

U.S. Census 1850 City of Nashville Household of Robert C. Foster (Jr.) On-line

Obituary *The Whig* Sept. 28, 1844 Robert C. Foster

Obituary *Republican Banner* Nov. 17, 1847 Mrs. Jane Foster

Obituary *Republican Banner* Nov. 18, 1850 Mrs. Ann Foster

Obituary *Republican Banner* Sept. 9, 1854 Ephraim H. Foster

City Cemetery Tombstone Inscriptions for Robert and Ephraim Foster families

Fletch Coke 2017